

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK TURNER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to recognize Chuck Turner, a longtime Appropriations Committee professional staff member, who sadly passed away on December 8.

Chuck was a skillful appropriator, a beloved colleague, and a steadfast public servant. His 40-year career was dedicated to serving Congress, the Capitol Hill community, and the American people.

Chuck began his long career on Capitol Hill working for the Library of Congress, first in the U.S. Copyright Office, then in the Library's Financial Services Office, where he handled budget issues.

For the better part of the last 32 years, Chuck worked with the House Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee: first on detail from the Library of Congress, and then—after proving himself to be invaluable—as senior staff for the Subcommittee.

His concern for and commitment to the Legislative Branch underscored everything he did. He consistently put the Committee and his work for the House before anything else.

He made sure that Members of Congress have the resources they need to do their legislative work on behalf of the American people. In particular, he maintained a deep affection for the Library of Congress—ensuring its work and collections remain available to the public and to the Members who rely on its information to do their jobs.

He also ensured that all who entered the Capitol Complex—be it staff, visitors, or the Members themselves—are safe—protected by a well-equipped Capitol Police force, in solid and secure facilities. His life's work can be felt each time you set foot in the Capitol Complex.

Chuck was recognized for his expertise and good work on more than one occasion. He was called upon to serve as a Special Investigator for the Select Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina. He took part in a staff delegation to Indonesia to help train members of the Indonesian parliament and their staff on the legislative budget process. And for several years, he not only worked with the House Legislative Branch Subcommittee, but he also helped the Senate with writing their Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

Chuck was truly the epitome of a devoted public servant—he worked until the very end.

On a more personal level, Chuck was beloved by all those he worked with. His kindness, consideration, easy sense of humor, and loyal friendship is something that all could aspire to. The Legislative Branch, the House, and the Appropriations Committee will be a lesser place without him.

I want to thank Chuck for his decades of service, and for leaving his final mark on this

institution—the Legislative Branch bill that will be a part of the final, fiscal year 2016 omnibus legislation. His presence will be deeply missed in the halls of the Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO KAY RAYMOND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kay Raymond, of Creston, Iowa, for being selected as Creston Volunteer of the Year for 2015.

Kay spent a number years teaching special education before retiring 12 years ago. After retirement, Kay decided to use her free time to continue giving back to her community. Now she volunteers numerous hours a week as a volunteer for Friends of the Library, as a member and volunteer at the YMCA, and also gives back as a member of her church and at other local organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Kay's dedication to her community and her fellow Iowans is a true testament to her character. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kay for her achievements and wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHIL ROMANO

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to recognize the life and achievements of a brilliant and fascinating man—Phil Romano. Now, although Mr. Romano is not originally from Texas, he falls into the category of people who moved there as quickly as he could. A man that cannot easily be entertained, Mr. Romano bounced around the country before making Dallas his home, and bounced through multiple successful business projects before settling with a self-proclaimed and modest title: entrepreneur. However, Mr. Romano is much more than an entrepreneur. He is rich in character, and Dallas is proud to be his home.

Mr. Romano is best known for his successful career in the restaurant industry. His business ventures brought Texas as well as the nation beloved institutions such as Fuddruggers, Romano's Macaroni Grill, and Eatzi's. These business ventures solidified his status as a successful businessman, but Mr. Romano helped satisfy much more than people's appetites.

When Mr. Romano was working with a small venture capital firm SHD Management

LLC, he had the keen eye to spot a good product. After talking to a cardiologist named Julio Palmaz, Mr. Romano agreed to invest capital and run the business operations for the balloon-expandable heart stent. It ended up becoming over a 10 million dollar invention, but more impressively than that, it saved countless lives, including Mr. Romano's, who now uses a heart stent after he helped invent it. When he worked in the restaurant industry he touched people's stomachs, and when he was a venture capitalist he touched people's hearts.

However, his success is most tangible in the impact he has on Dallas. His most recent project, Trinity Groves, will provide a community space for entrepreneurs to grow, businesses to invest, and people to enjoy. In addition to that, his affinity for art, embodied not only in his home but in his studio on Dragon Street in Dallas, will solidify his legacy as a brilliant and deep man.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was with a burger, a heart stent, a community, or a painting, throughout his life, Phil Romano has left a Texas-sized impression on Dallas, the city he loves that loves him back.

THE CHRISTIAN AND YEZIDI GENOCIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each day, our newspapers, magazines, radios and television screens are filled with images of people fleeing territory controlled by the Islamic jihadist group known as the Islamic State of al-Sham, or ISIS.

More than half of the 635,000 refugees—an estimated 53 percent—in Europe are from Syria alone, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees or UNHCR.

While violence plays the major role in the impetus of Syrians to leave their homes, Shelly Pitterman of the UNHCR testified at a hearing I chaired on October 20th that the main trigger for flight from refugee camps or shelter in nations like Jordan is the humanitarian funding shortfall. In recent months, he told us that the World Food Programme cut its program by 30 percent, and the current Syrian Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2015 is only 41 percent funded. The UNHCR expects to receive just 47 percent of the funding it needs for Syria over the next year.

One year ago this month, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued a report that detailed a worsening humanitarian situation in Syria. An estimated 12.21 million were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 7.6 million internally displaced people and more than 5.6 million children in need of assistance. An estimated 4.8 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in hard to reach areas

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and locations. Those numbers have not improved as the conflict has continued.

By the third international pledging conference on March 31, 2015, the crisis had become the largest displacement crisis in the world, with 3.8 million people having fled to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, in addition to those internally displaced. In support of the Syria Response Plan and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, international donors pledged US\$3.8 billion. However, according to the Financial Tracking Service at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs or OCHA, only \$1.17 billion of \$2.89 billion in the plan had been received as of December 7th. This constitutes only 41% of what is considered necessary by OCHA.

Last week's hearing focused on the plight of persecuted religious minorities in Syria and Iraq, which constitutes genocide, and the failure of much of the international community to live up to their pledges of humanitarian assistance, factors which "push" refugees to Europe and beyond. In particular, we will examine violence targeting religious minorities such as Christians and Yazidis (a non-Islamic religious minority) in territory controlled by ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

This past September, the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum undertook a "Bearing Witness" trip to northern Iraq to investigate allegations of genocide being committed by ISIS. In a report entitled "Our Generation is Gone" The Islamic State's Targeting of Iraqi Minorities in Nineveh," the report stated that: "Based upon the public record and private eyewitness accounts, we believe the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) perpetrated crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing against Christian, Yazidi, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandaean, and Kaka'i people in Nineveh province between June and August 2014. In our interviews, we heard accounts of the forcible transfer of populations, severe deprivation of physical liberty, rape, sexual slavery, enslavement, and murder perpetrated in a widespread and systematic manner that indicates a deliberate plan to target religious and ethnic minorities. Some specific communities—notably the Yazidi, but also Shia Shabak and Shia Turkmen—were targeted for attack."

Mirza Ismail, Chairman and Founder of the Yazidi Human Rights Organization-International, testified that the Yazidis are on the verge of annihilation.

Chaldean Bishop Francis Kalabat testified that, "There are countless Christian villages in Syria who have been taken over by ISIS and have encountered genocide and the Obama administration refuses to recognize their plight."

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, calls on the Obama administration to publicly acknowledge that genocide is taking place against the Christian communities of Iraq and Syria. Mr. Anderson testified that "vulnerable religious minorities fear taking shelter in the camps of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees because of religiously motivated violence and intimidation inside the camps." "Syrian Christians", he notes, "and other vulnerable minorities are disproportionately excluded from the U.S. Syrian Refugee Resettlement Program due to reliance on a functionally discriminatory UNHCR program."

Dr. Gregory Stanton, President of Genocide Watch and research professor at George Mason University, in his testimony entitled "Weak Words Are Not Enough", he states, "Failure to call ISIS' mass murder of Christians, Muslims, and other groups in addition to Yazidis by its proper name—genocide—would be an act of denial as grave as U.S. refusal to recognize the Rwandan genocide in 1994."

The administration reportedly is considering declaring the ISIS treatment of Yazidis to be genocide, but there is no indication that Christians will be included. That's absurd. Such an action would be contrary to the facts and tragically wrong. Last year, a United Nations resolution determined that both Yazidis and Christians were being particularly targeted by ISIS.

A group of Christian leaders recently wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry to present their case for treating Christians the same as Yazidis in this matter, but they have not received a reply thus far.

As we attempt to end the ISIS threat, we must consider how to help ensure religious pluralism in Syria and Iraq in the future. That will not be an easy task since animosities have grown during the conflicts in Iraq and Syria, exponentially so during the rise and reign of terror of ISIS. Nevertheless, unless we consider how to help make these lands safe for religious minorities, we will continue to see them chased out of their traditional areas even if there is no ISIS.

Our witnesses last week provided us a picture of the ongoing struggle faced by religious minorities in ISIS territory, and hopefully, they will help us to begin the discussion of making these areas safe for their people in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GRACIE RUSSELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gracie Russell for being selected as the Creston Youth of the Year. Gracie is the daughter of Rob and Julie Russell.

Gracie is a senior at Creston High School and is active in FFA, volleyball, basketball, tennis, and the National Honor Society. She's also active in the community, volunteering her time with the Appalachian Service Project, Union County Youth Council, St. Malachy Youth Group, Douglas Boosters 4-H Club, and Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association. Gracie has also participated in Meals from the Heartland, roadside cleanup, Rectory Rerun time, painting at McKinley Park, decorating the restored Creston Depot for Christmas activities, Balloon Days pedal pull time, Halloween safety at Early Childhood Center, planting trees around the community, and Open Table.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Gracie is one all Iowans should strive for. Her willingness to serve truly embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gracie for this achievement and wishing her nothing but continued success.

HOUSTON'S BEST FROM TX-22

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Darius Anderson from George Ranch High School for being named the Touchdown Club of Houston's Offensive Player of the Year.

This running back sure can run. During his award winning senior year, Darius has rushed for over 1,700 yards and has 27 touchdowns. A young man of character and a strong work ethic, he no doubt makes his parents, coaches, and teachers proud. The next trophy in his sights? The football state championship trophy he and his teammates will compete for this weekend. Best of luck to Darius and his Longhorn teammates.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Darius for all of his success. We look forward to seeing where his football career takes him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote number 694. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call vote number 694.

TRIBUTE TO CURT TURNER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Curt Turner, of Creston, Iowa, for being selected as the Creston Citizen of the Year.

Curt Turner graduated from Diagonal High School as valedictorian and attended the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs. He moved to Creston in 1978 and opened his own insurance agency, American Family Insurance, in 1986. By the time Curt retired in 2008, he had led the company nationally in farm sales for 10 consecutive years. During his 22 years of working in insurance, he was also a major contributor to the Creston community. He was a member of the Elks, served on the school board from 1990–1999, remains an active member of his church, and in his retirement, continues to serve the community as a local Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, Curt's dedication to his community and willingness to serve represents all that is great with our state. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Curt for his achievements and wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING TED BEATTIE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President of Shedd Aquarium, Ted A. Beattie.

After more than two decades of leadership at a world renowned aquarium, Mr. Beattie is retiring with a career record dedicated to advancing conservation and education of animals and ecosystems. Mr. Beattie came to Shedd Aquarium in January 1994 as the third President/CEO. During his tenure, his leadership and vision for the aquarium have led to the development and opening of six permanent exhibits, including the addition of Wild Reef and the re-imagining of Shedd's Abbott Oceanarium marine mammal pavilion.

Beyond that, Mr. Beattie oversaw the establishment of the Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research, which now includes a portfolio of eighteen global field research programs that span the world. He also added Shedd's onsite animal hospital and lab facilities within the A. Watson Armour III Center for Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare, introduced a Master Energy Road Map designed to cut the aquarium's energy consumption in half by 2020, opened the Shedd's Teen Learning Lab, and helped the aquarium earn a position in Chicago's top-attended paid cultural attraction for 17 of the last 21 years.

It is clear that Mr. Beattie's contributions to the aquarium have been extensive, but more broadly, he has contributed to the positive transformation of Museum Campus. This 57 acre addition to Grant Park is the heart of exploration and discovery for millions of visitors along Chicago's lakefront.

The impact of Mr. Beattie's leadership will be greatly missed by Shedd Aquarium and the City of Chicago. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating his work and accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 15, I missed votes due to being unavoidably detained as a result of weather-related flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of roll call vote Number 694.

TRIBUTE TO REV. OLLIE AND ALTHA ODLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev. Ollie and Altha Odle on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 24, 1945 in Kansas City, Kansas.

Rev. Ollie and Altha's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Terry, Ollie Jr. and Kathie, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Odles that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ENSURING ADMINISTRATION ACTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month, I chaired the fourth oversight hearing this year on implementation of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act.

The Goldman Act empowers the executive branch with powerful new tools and a myriad of ways to successfully resolve parental child abduction cases. Like any law, however, it is only as good as its implementation.

Historically, 750–1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes each year by one of their parents and taken across international borders.

International parental child abduction rips children from their homes and takes them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and family left behind.

Child abduction is child abuse. Its negative impact on the children and left behind families can last for years—even a lifetime.

Two of our witnesses at the hearing—like many who were there and are around the country—know first-hand the trauma, the tears, the excruciating pain, and the longing and heartbreak of parental child abduction.

David Goldman's son Sean was abducted to Brazil and unlawfully retained for approximately 5½ years. Mr. Goldman tenaciously pursued every legal means of return including expert counsel in his quest to bring Sean home. Today father and son are thriving.

Captain Paul Toland continues his heroic 12 year quest to bring his 13 year old daughter, Erica, home from Japan. Captain Toland refuses to quit or be deterred despite years of frustration and setbacks—such is this father's incredible love for his precious daughter.

Our first hope is to prevent, or at least mitigate the number of, abductions and the State Department is to be commended for implementing a provision of the Goldman Act that adds children that a judge has determined to be at risk of abduction to a “no fly” list. In 2014, we saw a decrease in the number of new abductions—150 fewer new cases than the previous year.

But I am concerned that the State Department has chosen not to impose any sanctions on any of those nations found to have engaged in a “pattern of noncompliance.”

The Goldman Act, however, requires State Department action on individual cases that

have been pending for more than a year if the foreign government has not been taking adequate steps to resolve the case.

The Goldman Act also requires action when, collectively, a country has high numbers of cases—30 percent or more—that have been unresolved for over a year; or if the government is failing in their duties under the Hague Convention or other bilateral agreement; or if their law enforcement fails to enforce return or access orders.

The Goldman Act not only shines a light on a country's record through the annual designation of countries showing a “pattern of non-compliance”, it holds countries accountable and incentivizes systemic reform. Actions escalate in severity, and range from official protests through diplomatic channels, to public condemnation, to extradition, to the suspension of development, security, or other foreign assistance.

The Goldman Act was designed to raise the stakes on the foreign country's inaction or obstruction, and move the country to end the nightmare of abduction.

In July we reviewed the State Department's first annual report on abduction and access resolution rates around the world. The annual report had some major gaps and misleading information, some of which were corrected by the Supplemental Data posted by the State Department in August.

Tragically, in contravention of both the spirit and letter of the Goldman Act, the State Department failed to list Japan—with more than 50 abduction cases—among the 22 countries showing a “pattern of noncompliance” and therefore eligible for Goldman Act sanctions. This glaring omission sent the unfortunate signal that pre-Hague Japan cases were no longer a top priority—cases like that of Sgt. Michael Elias who has been denied any contact with his two young children, Jade and Michael, after they were abducted to Japan in 2008.

In September the State Department sent to Congress its first 90 day report on actions it took to bring the 22 most difficult countries to the resolution table.

Those actions included demarches, judicial rulings, and meetings—all of which are necessary and of value—but noticeably absent was the imposition of any number of meaningful sanctions prescribed by the Goldman Act.

I respectfully submit that this was a missed opportunity to convey to “pattern of non-compliance” nations that the United States is absolutely serious about resolving parental abduction. The imposition of sanctions says we mean business. (Sanctions are imposed on an entity to enforce civil rights laws and other policies of paramount importance)

Notwithstanding section 103 of the Goldman Act, the Report makes no mention of MOUs or bilateral agreements to resolve cases—including and especially cases that existed prior to Japan's ratification of the Hague.

I—and others—have raised this concern for several years, especially for victims of Japan's policies. Perhaps Assistant Secretary Bond can tell us if any bilateral agreements or MOUs are in the works.

The report details the State Department's efforts to persuade India to ratify the Hague Convention—a step that if not combined with an MOU to resolve current abduction cases, which number about 75, we risk replicating the extraordinary misery endured by left behind

parents after Japan ratified the Hague. If India ratified the Hague it will—like Japan—grandfather preexisting cases out of the convention resolution process.

Bindu Philips, mother of Albert and Alfred, has struggled with her ex-husband in Indian courts for the return of her sons for nearly nine years. Ravi Parmar has been fighting for his son's return for three years.

Section 201 of the Goldman Act also requires the State Department to conduct a review of individual cases pending 12 months or more to discern whether the foreign government has taken adequate steps to resolve the case or whether actions are warranted. This is the "individual case" trigger for actions (as opposed to the "pattern of noncompliance" country trigger). Despite a half-dozen Congressional letters from various members of Congress asking for Sec. 201 reviews of egregious cases, the State Department, to my knowledge, has not done a single review, much less applied actions.

I am encouraged by a press statement by Secretary of State John Kerry.

While noting that the Goldman Act provides "additional tools to advocate for the return of abducted children" he states "there can be no safe haven for abductors. The Department of State will continue to use all the tools available to us to help those involved in international parental child abduction cases to resolve their disputes and move forward with their lives."

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL LUIS VISOT

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General Luis R. Visot of the United States Army Reserve who will retire after more than 37 years of exceptionally distinguished service culminating in assignment as Chief of Staff, Army Reserve. As Chief of Staff, Major General Visot oversaw staff operations at both the United States Army Reserve Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He immediately set out to improve efficiencies within and between the staffs to improve the quality and speed of decision making processes through deliberate staff interaction both vertically and horizontally. I am grateful for his and his family's life of service to the Army Reserve and wish him well as he transitions into retirement.

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, MG Visot was commissioned as a 2LT in May 1978. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI and a Master's in Education from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. MG Visot received a Master's in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. His military education includes: Infantry Airborne Basic Course, Quartermaster Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, the Associate Logistics Executive Development Course, the United States Army War College, the Advanced Joint Military Professional Education (AJPME), the Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, and CAPSTONE.

Prior to assuming responsibilities as Chief of Staff, Major General Visot served as the Deputy Commanding General (Operations), United States Army Reserve Command from May 2012 to April 2014. During his tenure as DCG-O, he ably assisted the Chief of Army Reserve (CAR)/Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) in establishing and executing operational and strategic priorities consistent with those of Forces Command and Secretary of the Army. Major General Visot guided the Command as it provided continuous support to the war effort and executed multiple contingency deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Major General Visot executed delegated Mission Command over sixteen USARC Operational and Functional (O&F) Commands (over 160K Soldiers and \$282 million OMAR and \$567 million RPA budgets) to synchronize/integrate ARFORGEN implementation and consolidate the readiness focus.

With more than 37 years of Active Duty in support of the Army Reserve, MG Visot's distinguished career is marked by tremendous accomplishments, impacting across the breadth and depth of the Total Army. He is a leader who genuinely cares for Soldiers, Civilians and Families. Nothing is more important to him than caring for our Nation's most precious resource—our Soldiers. As a Citizen Soldier himself, Major General Visot is acutely aware of the challenges and sacrifices of Army Reserve Soldiers as they balance the demands of service to the Nation, community, and family well-being. He enthusiastically fostered a command culture emphasizing "Care for our Soldiers" and held Leaders accountable for the wellbeing of our Soldiers on and off duty. Major General Visot has proven to be a pivotal leader in the Army Reserve. His impassioned leadership focus will have a positive influence on the Army Reserve for years to come.

As with all our Citizen Soldiers, it is important that we acknowledge the University of South Florida for their outstanding support as MG Visot's civilian employer. It is because of their cooperation and understanding during his many tours on Active Duty that he was able to make such a positive impact on the Army Reserve.

It is only fair and proper to acknowledge the tireless support of his wife, Dr. Cindy S. Visot, as her love and support enabled MG Visot to work tirelessly on his assigned duties. Dr. Visot is the Chief of Staff and the Director of Board of Trustees Operations at the University of South Florida. Let us thank her for all her sacrifices throughout their service. We congratulate MG and Dr. Visot on their many years of distinguished service and wish them continued success in the future.

UNDEFEATED COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Ricky Tullos for being named the Touchdown Club of Houston's Coach of the Year.

Coach Tullos has helped the young George Ranch Longhorn football program write quite a

success story. Under Tullos' guidance, the Longhorns are 44–8 and undefeated this season. His players love the intensity he brings to the game and have great respect for him as a leader. This weekend, Coach Tullos will coach his team to victory in the state championship game. Coach Tullos, keep doing what you're doing and bring home the championship. Good luck to you and your team this weekend.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Coach Tullos for being named Coach of the Year. The Longhorns are lucky to have a leader and mentor like him.

TRIBUTE TO ZACK PEPPMEIER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zack Peppmeier, of Shannon City, Iowa for earning the American FFA Degree. Zack was recently awarded this degree at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 31.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Zack had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field and investing that money into their business, as well as participating in community service and having a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement. Overall, Zack spent four years working towards and meeting these requirements, and his hard work and years of dedication has paid off.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Zack in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on receiving this esteemed designation, and in wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DARRIELLE KING OF DESOTO FOR BEING RANKED AS THE EIGHTH-BEST SENIOR RE- CRUIT IN THE NATION BY THE PREPVOLLEYBALL.COM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Darrielle King. She is an Under Armour Second Team All American and a nominee for Gatorade Player of the Year.

King was an outstanding defensive player on the volleyball court, totaling 147 solo blocks and 124 block assists. The All-Stater had 243 kills and was named District 8–6A's outstanding blocker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Darrielle King for her outstanding recognition on and off the volleyball court.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, due to a funeral I attended in California, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call 694. Had I been present I would have voted:

YES—H. Res. 536, Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND EVELYN BIRKBY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert and Evelyn Birkby of Sidney, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 69th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 3, 1946 at the Sidney Methodist Church in Sidney, Iowa.

Robert and Evelyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Birkbys that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 69th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. TERRI CROOK FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Ms. Terri Crook as she retires from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), after serving 37 years as a Revenue Officer in the Collection Function.

Terri received a Bachelor's of Science degree from Florida State University (FSU) in 1980. In 1991, she was selected as a Group Manager in the Collection Function. She later became an Analyst and served 401 Taxpayer Assistance Centers nationwide. In 2009, she was selected as the Local Taxpayer Advocate for South Florida and was ultimately selected to head an Innovative Training Team within the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

Terri's passion for advocacy and counseling to various taxpayers and organizations

throughout South Florida is to be commended. She has devoted herself to serving as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Volunteer every year during Filing Season. In this capacity, she has prepared tax returns for people living in low-income areas.

In her personal time, she co-wrote and directed a one woman show entitled, "Don't Be No Whole Fool Cause Life Ain't No Dress Rehearsal," and donated all the proceeds from the show to charity. Furthermore, she has also helped children at her local Boys and Girls Club develop their public speaking skills.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to recognize Ms. Terri Crook on her retirement from the IRS. I want to thank her for her years of service, and wish her all the very best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

PATENT NO LONGER PENDING

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate young Liliana Segura of Katy, Texas for recently being awarded a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

While a student at Beckendorff Junior High, she was fortunate enough to enroll in a Gifted and Talented Independent Study with Mentorship course. During this course, Liliana brilliantly invented a new clipboard design and worked with her mentor to file a patent application with the USPTO as an eighth grader. Her design for the "Particulate Collecting Pad" was awarded a patent for her insightful and ingenious creation. Liliana's invention is a testament to the innovation and ideas our students are capable of achieving when given the opportunity.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Liliana on her now patented invention. Keep working hard and dreaming big.

HONORING 100TH ANNIVERSARY FOR 31ST STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the 31st Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia on their 100th anniversary.

During the turn of the last century, African Americans continued to face significant oppression and discrimination. In 1895, despite the adversity facing the Black community, African American Baptist Churches came together to form the National Baptist Convention of the United States to strengthen and unify Baptist Churches. Today, it is the largest predominantly Black Christian denomination in the United States.

The 31st Street Baptist Church grew out of this movement and was consecrated in 1915. The church quickly established itself as a leading voice in the Richmond community and its congregation rapidly grew. Members were

active in the community and encouraged to attend the historic March on Washington in 1963. Sadly in 1966, the church structure was burned down. But out of the ashes, 31st Street Baptist Church persevered and its current sanctuary was built.

From 1982 to 2007, Reverend Darrel Rollins led the church. Under his leadership the church prospered even further. The congregation grew from 150 to 1,300 and the church added more than 50 new ministries. These ministries included assistance to seniors, nutrition assistance, and a consortium of three sister churches. Today, the Church feeds 70 to 250 people a day during the summer in the East End community. The physical building of the church has also grown and has become accessible to all.

More recently, the 31st Baptist Church was recognized by the Tricycle Gardens, a non-profit working to expand access to healthy foods in Richmond, with the Golden Trowel award for the church's community garden that contributes to the food available at their soup kitchen. The garden has continued to grow under Rev. Dr. Morris Henderson's leadership and has even received a farm serial number from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The First Lady's Let's Move! Initiative has also recognized the church and its urban farm for its positive impact on the community. This unique garden is just one of the many ways that 31st Baptist Church has served and enriched the Richmond community.

Mr. Speaker, as the 31st Street Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia celebrates this historic anniversary, the congregation can rejoice in 100 years of fellowship and service to the Richmond community. I wish them many more years of joy and dedicated service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Norwalk High School Debate Team for winning State Debate Championship for the first time in 22 years.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Varsity Debaters: Joe Oswald, Collin Kilgore, Melinda Klawonn, Alex Johnson, Liah Moeller, and Noah Percy

Coach: Jenipher Sutherland

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coach demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young people for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

MRS. SUZANNE WRIGHT

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that Suzanne Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks and a member of the organization's board, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Suzanne is taking a leave of absence from her work with Autism Speaks to focus on her medical care.

In 2005, Suzanne and Bob Wright co-founded Autism Speaks after their grandson Christian was diagnosed with autism. Over the last ten years, Autism Speaks has become a world leader in educating people about autism spectrum disorder and advocating for individuals with autism.

Since Autism Speaks' founding, Suzanne has led the organization's signature global awareness initiatives. She was instrumental in establishing April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day by the United Nations, for example, and she launched the global Light It Up Blue campaign and established World Focus on Autism, Autism Speaks' annual meeting of First Ladies from around the globe.

Suzanne has been a tireless advocate for autistic individuals and their families. She is known to countless families for her personal notes and generosity, as well as for her leadership and support of many Autism Speaks Walks around the country. I urge my colleagues to keep Suzanne in their thoughts and prayers and to continue to be motivated by her example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call votes nos. 690 through 693, on Friday, December 11, 2015, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on roll calls 690, 691, and 693. I would have voted no on roll call 692.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE PATTERSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Patterson for being named an Innovation Iowa—Women of Innovation award winner in 2015.

In November, the Technology Association of Iowa honored 10 Iowa women with innovation awards. This is an award that elevates and celebrates today's extraordinary women and recognizes women who are leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math. Katie was recognized as a Rising Star. She is the founder of Happy Medium, a digital media and advertising agency.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Katie in the United States Con-

gress and it is with great pride that I congratulate her for utilizing her talents to better both the community of Des Moines and the state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Katie on receiving this esteemed designation, and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CLASS 1A—ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Purple Raiders of Arcola Jr. Sr. High School as the IHSA Class 1A high school state champions.

On November 27, 2015 Arcola defeated Stark County by 35–17 winning the Class 1A State Championship. I would like to recognize the effort of this amazing team and congratulate them on their historic season as they celebrate their first state championship title in 27 years.

I would also like to congratulate the Strader family. Brothers Clayton and Connor and their cousin Chase for contributing to six touchdowns and several tackles. Tommy Eddleman, Jim Fishel, Aldo Garcia, Chad Hopkins, Jarod Kiger, and John Lidy make up the coaching staff which supported Athletic Director and Head Coach, Zach Zehr to provide great leadership for these talented football players.

I look forward to the continued success of the Arcola Jr. Sr. High School. I extend my best wishes for another outstanding season next year.

The following are Arcola Purple Raider Varsity Football players: Conner Strader, Clayton Strader, Parker Ingram, Kollin Seaman, Martin Rund, Daniel Mendoza, Victor Gonzalez, Myles Roberts, Blake Lindenmeyer, Seth Still, Chase Strader, Mario Cortez, Sam Crane, Alec Downs, Tony Salinas, Wyatt Fishel, Giovanni Salinas, Brandon Lebetter, Cole Hutton, Rey Garza, Ethan Still, Mason Gentry, Javi Leal, Pablo Rodriguez, Kaleb Byard, Jonny Garza, Dalton Pantier, Gavin Coombe, Luke Spencer, Tito Garcia, Clayton Kuhring, Jack Spencer, Alex Kauffman, Aaron Dudley, Grant McPherson, Jorge Garza, and Jack Nacke.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,775,084,981,439.86. We've added \$8,140,759,141,496.86 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY THOMPSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cindy Thompson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being honored with the Outstanding Individual Leader Award by the Iowa Tourism Office and the Travel Federation of Iowa.

Cindy has worked for the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and the communities in southwest Iowa since 1989. She spends her time working on tourism projects throughout the area. The leadership skills she demonstrates has helped the tourism industry to grow and expand in southwest Iowa. Cindy contributes her success to the great people with whom she has had the privilege to work.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Cindy for earning this award. It is because of Iowans like her that I'm proud to represent the people of our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Cindy for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF DEBBIE LOCKE-DANIEL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Debbie Locke-Daniel and her many years of service to the City of Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County. Mrs. Locke-Daniel served as the President and CEO of the Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (Visit YPSI) where she used her business acumen to help successfully market the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor area as a destination for numerous meetings, events and conventions. Known for her relentless work ethic and leadership talents, Mrs. Locke-Daniel has enabled the Ypsilanti area to grow its economy and promote its strengths across Michigan and the nation.

Mrs. Locke-Daniel is a true community leader and has served on numerous boards including a leadership role as Past Chair of the MotorCities National Area Partnership which works to cultivate an appreciation for the rich heritage of Michigan's auto industry. Mrs. Locke-Daniel also served as Vice President of the Board for the Ypsilanti Wheels on Meals, which delivers prepared meals to homebound, disabled, and infirmed residents, and earned the 2012 Ypsilanti Kiwanis Community Service Award for her efforts. In addition, she has been a board member of both the Marnee Divine Foundation (Catholic Social Services in Washtenaw County) and the Michigan Firehouse Museum.

Visit YPSI is more than a tourism agency; it is a vehicle for economic and community development. For many years, this organization has awarded grants to small communities such as Manchester, Dexter, and Superior Township. These grants have been used to create town entry signs, public maps, and

landscaping alterations with the hope of increased tourism activity. Without Mrs. Locke-Daniel's vision and stewardship of funds, many communities would not have had the ability to further their own economic growth projects which is critical to the success of our region.

One of the remarkable achievements of Visit YPSI was its receipt of the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program designation. This international accreditation recognizes entities for their high level performance in destination marketing and management. To date, only one percent of convention and visitors bureaus within Michigan, and seven percent nationally, have earned this prestigious recognition.

Mrs. Locke-Daniel was largely responsible for forming a team which was able to create a body of work that met such stringent international standards. Described as the ultimate team player, the success of Visit YPSI has been attributed to her ability to empower staff to seek creative solutions and grow within their positions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor and congratulate Mrs. Debbie Locke-Daniel on her retirement and years of service to her community. Although she will be missed, her achievements will continue to have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JAMES RANDELL "RANDY" STOKES, SR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life and dedicated service of James Randell "Randy" Stokes, Sr. of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, who died on December 8, 2015.

Mr. Stokes was born in Andalusia, Alabama in the fall of 1932. During the Korean War, he left high school to join the United States Army and became an intelligence sergeant. Although only 18 years old, he graduated in the top eight from the Light Artillery Battalion Leadership School. In 1952, Mr. Stokes was honorably discharged and returned home to Andalusia to finish high school, where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Following graduation, he attended Troy State University to play football and study engineering. Then, in 1954, he transferred to Auburn University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Architecture.

In 1959, Mr. Stokes moved to Fort Walton Beach, the city he would call home until his passing. Upon arriving in Florida, he began working at Ricks and Kendrick Architect, Inc. and became partner after 10 years. In 1988, he started his own firm—Stokes Architectural, Inc.

Mr. Stokes has been honored by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects for his leadership and community service benefitting the profession of architecture. His architectural work is on display in many Northwest Florida landmarks, including Saint Mary's School and Church in Fort Walton Beach,

Niceville High School, Choctawhatchee High School, Fort Walton Beach High School, Northwest Florida State College, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce building, the Walton County Chamber of Commerce building, White Wilson Medical Center, and Westwood Retirement Center, among others.

In addition to his architectural contributions, Mr. Stokes was a leader in Northwest Florida's civic society, serving as president of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, twice as president of the local YMCA, councilmember and Mayor of the City of Mary Esther, president of the Fort Walton Beach Rotary Club, and a member of the Krewe of Bowlegs.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am proud to honor the dedicated service of Randy Stokes. Vicki and I will keep his entire family, especially his son, James Jr. and daughter-in-law, Andrea; daughter, Judy and son-in-law, Ken; daughter, Jennifer; daughter, Janet and son-in-law, Don; as well as his grandchildren Ross, Annie, Ryan, Christina, Drew, Conner, LylaKae, Bryna, Rand, and Champ; his nieces Terri and Mellie; and his siblings Betty, Tommy, Kevin, Jerry, and Silvia in our thoughts and prayers.

SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paddy Fisher of Katy High School for winning the Greater Houston High School Rotary Lombardi Award.

Each year the Rotary Lombardi Award is awarded to a player who displays talent, leadership, and respect on and off the football field. The award honors Vince Lombardi's legacy and recognizes talented Houston athletes. Paddy, a senior at Katy High School, was selected as this year's recipient for his outstanding talents on the defensive side of the ball and for being a leader on the team. Paddy's parents and coaches are no doubt proud of his talent and character.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Paddy for winning this prestigious award. We wish him continued success at Northwestern on and off the field.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT DICK DOUGLAS, JR. THE LONGEST SERVING EAGLE SCOUT IN BOY SCOUT HISTORY—90 YEARS AN EAGLE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I rise today to honor Robert Dick Douglas, Jr., the longest serving Eagle Scout in Boy Scout History, who on December 8, 2015, celebrated 90 Years as an Eagle.

Mr. Douglas joined the Boy Scouts July 23, 1923, on his 11th Birthday in Greensboro, NC,

and earned his Eagle Award 2 years, 4 months and 15 days later, on December 8, 1925, at the age of 13 and has been active in Scouting ever since.

He was recently an honored guest at the History of Scouting Trail (HOST) Annual Congressional Gala and quoted from memory what he called "His Guiding Star" almost 90 years after his Father, Judge Robert Dick Douglas, Sr., Chairman of the Greensboro Council Court of Honor, penned it as the winning essay for a local Community Chest Contest in 1926, to describe Scouting's goals in 50 words or less.

"Scouting safeguards your boy by proper companionship, guides him by adult leadership and develops him with a well-considered program of activities for the purpose of making him more reverent to God, more loyal to his country, more helpful to his fellow man and more useful to himself."

Following these words, Robert Dick Douglas, Jr. has enjoyed unparalleled Scouting success and adventure traveling to the far reaches of Africa and Alaska in the late 1920's and early 1930's, writing three bestselling accounts, which helped pave the way for an exemplary life as an Attorney & Community Servant.

As such, he recently received The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (September 24, 2015) and 16 of my fellow Representatives who are Eagle Scouts joined together and signed a Special Letter of Congratulation to Mr. Douglas.

I know they would wholeheartedly join me again today in recognizing this Historic Achievement—90 Years an Eagle Scout and the Longest Serving Eagle Scout in Boy Scout History.

TRIBUTE TO STACIE EUKEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stacie Euken, of Wiota, Iowa, for being selected as the 2015 Bob Joslin Award winner at the Iowa Farm Bureau annual meeting in December.

Stacie grew up on a hog farm in Cass County and studied Agriculture Education and Communications at Iowa State University. She now farms with her husband near Wiota and serves as the Cass County Farm Bureau president. Stacie takes every opportunity given to her to volunteer and promote agriculture, whether that's helping the local Pork Producers at a grill out, teaching kids about agriculture at community events, or going to Washington, D.C. to speak to legislators. She is a true Iowan, through and through.

Mr. Speaker, Stacie's dedication to advancing the agriculture community not only in Iowa but across the nation is truly commendable. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Stacie for her achievements and wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF WILLIAM
"TONY" FARRAR

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief William "Tony" Farrar of the Rialto Police Department for his outstanding service to the community.

For 34 years, Chief Farrar has actively served in various capacities to lead officers in the Rialto Police Department. His work has been described as exemplary by colleagues on account of his extreme professionalism and compassionate nature. Among Chief Farrar's many accomplishments include his induction into the Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame for his scientific evaluation of policing practices. Throughout his tenure, he has received widespread commendation for his leadership and extensive knowledge of tactical operations.

As Chief of Police, Chief Farrar has been a major proponent of integrating new technologies into everyday police activities. In doing so, he is an advocate for "evidence-based policing," which consists of implementing tactics that have demonstrated proven effectiveness. He understands the complexities of modern-day policing, and insists on officers continuing their education throughout their careers in order to gain a continual understanding of the field. Chief Farrar's outlook has been essential for maintaining an active police force that provides public safety to people in the region.

Most recently, Chief Farrar has been involved in researching Body Worn Video devices that are being implemented in police departments throughout the United States. His work is contributing to the growing field of literature on the subject and is developing future police tactics. Last year, the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* published an article written by him analyzing the effects of these devices on the use of force and citizens' complaints against police. His knowledge in this field is bolstered by the master's degree that he received from the University of Cambridge in 2013 along with the many fellowships that he has participated in throughout the years.

Chief Farrar is retiring from the Rialto Police Department, and on December 21, many members of the community will be participating in a walk of honor to celebrate his legacy. This momentous event will be a demonstration of the lasting impact that he has made on residents in the area. While he will surely be missed, I am excited to see how he will continue to be a part of the community.

For his heroic contributions to the Rialto Police Department, and for his many other achievements, I would like to recognize Chief Tony Farrar.

DRUG RESISTANT TB: THE NEXT
GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I convened a hearing on an extremely

urgent issue, focused on addressing what may very well be the next global health crisis: drug resistant tuberculosis.

Just as Ebola surprised many at the ferocity with which it spread, all of us must be concerned that the world is not fully prepared to meet the threat from this highly contagious airborne disease which killed 1.5 million people last year alone. That translates to over 4,000 people a day—4,000 lives that ended prematurely, including young children.

The World Health Organization released its Global Tuberculosis report just over a month ago and appealed to the world to beef up efforts to combat TB, and yesterday, in Cape Town South Africa, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease concluded its annual meeting, having gathered experts in fighting TB from all over the world. These are positive signs, showing that the global health community continues to surge toward ending TB by 2035—or sooner.

While most TB is curable if diagnosed and patients strictly adhere to a treatment regimen, some 6 million new cases of TB were reported to WHO in 2014. However it is likely that the number of people who contracted TB far exceeds this number—and may be as high as 9.6 million people. These people need to be diagnosed with a diagnostic that is fast and reliable and able to detect drug resistances, and treated, so they can lead healthy productive lives.

On a myriad of fronts there is reason for hope. For example the Expert MTB/RIF can diagnose TB and resistance to rifampicin within two hours, an amazing breakthrough. As CDC's Tom Friedman testified, this new diagnostic holds great promise. This new diagnostic holds great promise in enabling rapid detection of drug resistance, and the U.S. Government has led the global effort to scale up access to this test. The increase in the proportion of drug-resistant TB cases diagnosed and started on treatment over the past several years is largely attributable to the scale-up of this test.

Yet the tragic fact remains that some 480,000 new cases of hard-to-treat cases of multidrug resistant TB—a disease which often hits the poorest of the poor—are estimated to have occurred in 2014, yet only about 25 percent of these, or 123,000 cases were detected and reported, leaving a whopping 75 percent undetected and untreated.

Given the ease at which TB can spread through the air—especially through coughing—and the fact that people with weakened immune systems are more susceptible, one can see how left untreated MDR TB and its even more pernicious cousin, XDR or Extensively Drug Resistant TB can be catastrophic to individuals and wreak havoc on public health and public health systems.

To illustrate how fragile health systems can be overwhelmed, a course of treatment for normal, drug susceptible TB costs roughly between \$100 and \$500, depending on the country. For MDR TB, the cost is roughly between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per patient.

To respond fully to the TB crisis, the WHO estimates that some \$8 billion per year is needed. Unfortunately, there is a global budget shortfall of about \$1.4 billion. We need to lead not only in terms of providing funding, but also in terms of encouraging others—other countries, but also the private sector and foundations—in meeting this need by closing this gap.

Now is the time for a significantly enhanced response. A sustained focus on tuberculosis prevention today will save lives and money tomorrow, helping people the world over as well as protecting the homeland from what otherwise could become a global pandemic.

Our 3 witnesses from the hearing are extraordinary leaders in the health field and experts on TB. They—like many on subcommittee—believe we can at least mitigate TB in the short term and eliminate this deadly infectious disease by 2035, just as we have successfully fought polio. It takes political will, however, and an investment of resources that will pay dividends for healthier people in the long run.

The subcommittee will continue to work hard on combatting TB, along with members of the House Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus, whose co-chair is my good friend from New York, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, who joined the hearing last week. We also had some very outstanding leaders in the global fight against TB who briefed us and gave testimony at the hearing.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR JAMES BELT,
JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of James Belt, Jr. Mr. Belt, Jr. was a very prominent and well-respected leader in the community. As an activist, he also served our community by offering his words of wisdom and years of knowledge and experience.

For close to 40 years, he has served the community as a civil and criminal lawyer. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Pan American University, Edinburg, in 1968. And went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston in 1977. He opened his private practice in the heart of South Dallas, where he served those who needed him most. Mr. Belt, Jr. was also a Dallas Examiner co-publisher, sat on the board of the National Newspaper Publisher Association, the official Black Press of America and the NNPA Foundation Board.

During the early 2000s, he co-hosted Dallas Examiner Live on KNON Radio. He previously sat on the Texas Southern University Board of Regents in Houston, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board and the Texas Rural Foundation Board.

He was the founder of the Dallas Black Criminal Bar Association—an organization of Black lawyers in the private practice of law in Dallas County. He was a member of the National Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Inns of Court. He was also a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, it is in earnest respect that I recognize the memory of James Belt, Jr. before this body of Congress and this nation for the irreplaceable contributions he made to the community of Dallas and the State of Texas. My sincere condolences go out to his wife of 45 years, Mollie F. Belt; his children, James C.

Belt III, Melanie Belt, MD and Carlos Cavazos; 10 grandchildren, Brittany Cavazos, Jerry Cavazos, C.J. Cavazos, Joshua Cavazos, Michael Cavazos, Lejond Cavazos, Chloe Cavazos, Bryce Belt, Dylan Belt and Melania McDaniel; two daughter-in-laws, Melba Cavazos and Cherrese Belt; and one son-in-law, Demetrius McDaniel, Esq. While his loss will be deeply felt, the memory of his kindness and the recollection of his good deeds will transcend into future generations.

A DOZEN YEARS OF KEEPING
PEARLAND SAFE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pearland Fire Chief Vance Riley for his 12 years of service on the Texas Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC).

Chief Riley was first appointed to the Council in 2004 under Governor Rick Perry. After

six years of dedicated service, he was appointed Chair of GETAC in 2010. GETAC reviews EMS and Trauma rules and recommends changes that need to be made. It also develops certification plans for emergency personnel and plans for emergency medical services. Now, after 12 years of service, Governor Abbott recently presented Chief Riley with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding work and dedication. Pearland and all of Texas have benefitted from Chief Riley's leadership and commitment to keeping our communities safe.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you to Chief Riley for his 12 years of service to our great state.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees

to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 20

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Task Force for Business and Stability Operations projects in Afghanistan.

SR-232A